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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/901,142	07/10/2001	See Yap Ong	51460-20002.00	5774

7590 05/06/2003

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EXAMINER

ZARNEKE, DAVID A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2827

DATE MAILED: 05/06/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/901,142	ONG ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	David A. Zarneke	2827	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-26 and 28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 2-4, 8-17, 19, 20, 24-26 and 28 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 5-7, 18 and 21-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 July 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election without traverse of claims 18, 20-24 and 5-7 in the response filed March 14, 2003 is acknowledged.

Further, claims 20 and 24 are removed from consideration based upon this election.

Also, Applicant argues that method claims 2, 8 and 25 should be examined with this group.

The examiner takes the position that the elected group is device claims and these claims 2, 8 and 25 are method claims. A restriction was previously written dividing method and device claims into 2 groups.

With this in mind, this request is denied.

This leaves claims 18, 21-23, and 5-7 as the claims presently examined.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 18, 21-23 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Earle, US Patent 5,006,190.

Earle teaches a film removal method comprising:

a vacuum holder for holding a wafer but not the film attached thereto,
wherein the holder holds the wafer in a holding plane;

an applying means movably mounted with respect to the holder;

an adhesive tape detachment member moved by the applying means into
contact with, and applied to, the film wherein the adhesions force between the film and
the adhesive tape detachment member is greater than between the film and the wafer;
and

means for moving the adhesive tape detachment member away from the
holding plane to remove the adhesive tape detachment member and the film from the
wader held holder (claim 1).

Regarding claims 21 and 22, Earle teaches the use of a take-up reel (38) for
receiving the adhesive tape detachment member and the film.

With respect to claim 23, Earle teaches a take-up reel for receiving the adhesive
tape detachment member and the removed film, wherein the means is provided by
movably mounting 1 or both the feed or the take-up reels with respect to the holder.

Claims 18, 21-23 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by
Ametani, US Patent 4,631,103.

Ametani teaches a process for peeling a protective film off a thin article
comprising:

a vacuum holder (16) for holding a wafer (2) but not the film (4) attached
thereto, wherein the holder holds the wafer in a holding plane;

an carriage applicator (19) applying means movably mounted with respect to the holder;

an adhesive tape detachment member (14) moved by the applying means into contact with, and applied to, the film wherein the adhesions force between the film and the adhesive tape detachment member is greater than between the film and the wafer; and

means for moving the adhesive tape detachment member away from the holding plane to remove the adhesive tape detachment member and the film from the wader held holder (Figures).

Regarding claims 21 and 22, Ametani teaches the adhesive tape detachment member to be continuous between 2 spindles.

With respect to claim 23, Ametani teaches a receiving spindle for receiving the adhesive tape detachment member and the removed film, wherein the means is provided by movably mounting 1 or both the feed or the take-up reels with respect to the holder.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Earle, US Patent 5,006,190, and/or Ametani, US Patent 4,631,103, as applied to claim 18 above, and further in view of Seki, US Patent 4,770,737 .

Earle and Ametani fail to teach the use of a pressurized fluid to remove the film from the substrate.

Seki teaches the use of a pressurized fluid to remove a film from a substrate comprising an outlet adapted to be engaged to an aperture in the substrate to deliver fluid from the pressurized fluid source through the aperture, and the fluid delivery device being movably mounted with respect to the holder between an engaged position, in which the outlet engages with an aperture in a substrate held in the holder in use, and a disengaged position in which the outlet is disengaged from an aperture in a substrate mounted in the holder in use.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the pressurized fluid peeling apparatus of Seki in the inventions of Earle or Ametani because Seki shows that the use of fluid to peel a film from a substrate is conventionally known in the art.

The use of conventional materials to perform there known functions in a conventional process is obvious. In re Raner 134 USPQ 343 (CCPA 1962).

Regarding claim 6, Seki teaches the fluid delivery device (3A) as contacting the substrate thereby sealing it in the engaged position (Figure 3 & 4).

With respect to claim 7, Seki teaches the fluid delivery device being inserted into the aperture between the substrate and the film(Figure 3 & 4).

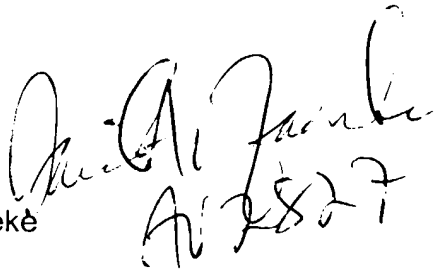
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David A. Zarneke whose telephone number is (703)-305-3926. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 10AM-6PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David L. Talbott can be reached on (703)-305-9883. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)-308-7722 for regular communications and (703)-308-7721 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)-308-0956.

David A. Zarneke
May 2, 2003

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David A. Zarneke", is written over the printed name. Below the signature, the art unit number "2827" is handwritten in a bold, blocky style.